

shopping with visits to the town's restaurants and cafés. Most shops are small independent stores, which is good, but many people prefer to use supermarkets and department stores in nearby large towns, as there are so few well-known chain stores here. Q13

Turning now to medical facilities, the town is served by family doctors in several medical practices – fewer than 50 years ago, but each catering for far more patients. Our hospital closed 15 years ago, which means journeys to other towns are unavoidable. On the other hand, there are more dentists than there used to be. Q14

Employment patterns have changed, along with almost everything else. The number of schools and colleges has increased, making that the main employment sector. Q15
Services, such as website design and accountancy, have grown in importance, and surprisingly, perhaps, manufacturing hasn't seen the decline that has affected it in other parts of the country.

Now I'll very quickly outline current plans for some of the town's facilities, before asking for your comments.

As you'll know if you regularly use the car park at the railway station, it's usually full. The railway company applied for permission to replace it with a multi-storey car park, but that was refused. Instead, the company has bought some adjoining land, and this will be used to increase the number of parking spaces. Q16

The Grand, the old cinema in the high street, will close at the end of the year, and reopen on a different site. You've probably seen the building under construction. Q17
The plan is to have three screens with fewer seats, rather than just the one large auditorium in the old cinema.

I expect many of you shop in the indoor market. It's become more and more shabby-looking, and because of fears about safety, it was threatened with demolition. The good news is that it will close for six weeks to be made safe and redecorated, and the improved building will open in July. Q18

Lots of people use the library, including school and college students who go there to study. The council has managed to secure funding to keep the library open later into the evening, twice a week. We would like to enlarge the building in the not-too-distant future, but this is by no means definite. Q19

There's no limit on access to the nature reserve on the edge of town, and this will continue to be the case. What *will* change, though, is that the council will no longer be in charge of the area. Instead it will become the responsibility of a national body that administers most nature reserves in the country. Q20

OK, now let me ask you ...

SECTION 3

JEREMY: Hello, Helen. Sorry I'm late.

HELEN: Hi, Jeremy, no problem. Well we'd better work out where we are on our project, I suppose.

JEREMY: Yeah. I've looked at the drawings you've done for my story, 'The Forest', and I think they're brilliant – they really create the atmosphere I had in mind when I was writing it.

HELEN: I'm glad you like them.

JEREMY: There are just a few suggestions I'd like to make.

HELEN: Go ahead.

JEREMY: Now, I'm not sure about the drawing of the cave – it's got trees all around it, which is great, but the drawing's a bit too static, isn't it? I think it needs some action. Q21